

Hot Issues: None

Second Tier Issues:

Proposed Withdrawal of Lands for Mineral Exploration, Superior National Forest, MN (US Forest Service):

- The Forest Service has initiated EIS scoping, with public and agencies' scoping comments due 4/13/17.
- The EIS will study the impacts of a proposed 20-year moratorium on mineral exploration and development in the 234,000 acres of the Superior National Forest that is in the Rainy River watershed upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in St. Louis and Lake Counties, Minnesota.
- By law, the BWCAW itself is exempt from mining and mineral exploration.
- The proposed NorthMet Copper/Nickel Open Pit Mine is in the Lake Superior Basin and is not affected by the proposed moratorium. However, the proposed Twin Metals Underground Copper Mine in the Rainy River watershed is potentially affected.

Matrix Highlights (EIS Comments Sent): None

Matrix Highlights (New EISs Received): None

This week's report is forwarded on behalf of Alan Walts. If you have questions, please contact Alan or contact Ken Westlake at 312-886-2910 and westlake.kenneth@epa.gov.